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Message Text

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ACTION SCSE-00

INFO OCT-01 ARA-10 EUR-12 ISO-00 SCA-01 DHA-02 H-02 FBIE-00
L-03 SY-05 /036 W
----------092119Z 115082 /73
P R 092029Z FEB 77
FM AMEMBASSY OTTAWA
TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 2382
INFO AMCONSUL MONTREAL
AMEMBASSY CARACAS

UNCLAS OTTAWA 0498

DEPT FOR ELIZABETH POWERS, SCA/SCS

CARACAS FOR LEGATT

E.O. 11652: N/A
TAGS: CASC (MISSING AMERICAN CITIZENS)
SUBJ: W/W MISSING AMERICAN CITIZENS

1. EMBASSY FILES CONCERNING YODER-HERSCHBERGER CASE CONSIST ENTIRELY OF MESSAGES AND DOCUMENTS RECEIVED FROM OTHERS POSTS, WITH A FEW WORKING NOTES SUCH AS TELEPHONE NUMBERS. CASE WAS HANDLED BY TELEPHONE. BOHN CASE MENTIONED ONLY INCIDENTALLY IN CONNECTION YODER CASE. NO INFORMATION ON BISSELL. FOLLOWING IS CHRONOLOGICAL SUMMARY OF EMBASSY ACTIONS.

2. NOVEMBER 20, 1976, SATURDAY: STATE 283926 NOTED "SEEN" BY DUTY OFFICER. MESSAGE HAD BEEN RECEIVED INCOMPLETE ON NOVEMBER 19 AND SERVICED.

3. NOVEMBER 22, MONDAY: STATE 283926 PASSED TO CONSULAR SECTION FOR ACTION. CONSUL GENERAL KELLER, FORMERLY CONSUL AT GUAYAQUIL, RECOGNIZED NAME OF MARCELO CARRION AS PERSON INVOLVED IN DEATH OF USC
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STEPHEN DOHN NEAR LIMON-INDANZA IN OCTOBER 1975. CHIEF OF MONTREAL CONSULAR SECTION AND KELLER AGREED THAT INFORMAL APPROACH TO RCMP AS REQUESTED IN TELEGRAM SHOULD BE MADE BY EMBASSY, NOT CONGEN MONTREAL. THE REQUEST FOR ASSISTANCE WAS MADE AND REPORTED TO DEPARTMENT IN OTTAWA 4617.

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4. NOVEMBER 26, FRIDAY: EMBASSY RECEIVED TRANSCRIPT OF UOMBONO INTERVIEW AND OTHER DOCUMENTATION BY POUCH. KELLER NOTED THAT TRANSCRIPT WAS HARDLY USEFUL BECAUSE OF GARBLES OF PLACE NAMES IN ECUADOREAN ORIENTE AND OTHER INDICATIONS OF LANGUAGE PROBLEMS BETWEEN INTERVIEWER AND UOMBONO. DOCUMENTATION ALSO CONFIRMED THAT CARRION WAS IN FACT THE PERSON INVOLVED IN BOHN DEATH CASE, WHICH KELLER HAD HANDLED. FOR THESE REASONS, KELLER ARRANGED TO ACCOMPNY RCMP OFFICER TO MONTREAL EARLY WEEK OF NOVEMBER 29 FOR UOMBONO INTERVIEW.

5. NOVEMBER 29, MONDAY: KELLER LEARNED THAT UOMBONO HAD LEFT MONTREAL FOR ECUADOR ON SATURDAY, NOVEMBER 27. THIS INFORMATION WAS PASSED TO DEPARTMENT (ELIZABETH POWERS, SCA/SCS). KELLER ALSO COMMENTED THAT PERSON REFERRED TO AS MERI OR MURIEL IN UOMBONO'S STATEMENTS PROBABLY WAS MIRIAM KATZ, FSL AT AMEMBASSY QUITO. HE SAID HE HAD TALKED TO CARRION BY TELEPHONE FOLLOWING BOHN DEATH, AND THAT CARRION HAD BEEN INTERVIEWED IN PERSON BY CAMILO LEON, FORMERLY ASSIGNED GUAYAQUIL AND NOW AT AMEMBASSY CARACAS. SUGGESTED THAT SCS OBTAIN COMPLETE BOHN DEATH FILE FROM CONGEN GUAYAQUIL IN CASE IT CONTAINED ANY FORGOTTEN LEADS TO CARRION'S ACTIVITY. THIS LED TO STATE 292055 WHICH WAS SENT ON NOVEMBER 30. KELLER ALSO TELEPHONED DR. OMAR YODER, NIH, ON NOVEMBER 29 TO DISCUSS HIS SISTER'S DISAPPEARANCE. CONVERSATION WAS ESSENTIALLY AN INCONCLUSIVE REVIEW OF THE FRAGMENTARY INFORMATION AVAILABLE, COMMENTS BY KELLER ON THE NATUE
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OF DIFFICULTIES TO BE ENCOUNTERED IN UPPER AMAZON REGION OF ECUADOR, AND AN OFFER TO BE OF ANY POSSIBLE ASSISTANCE SHOULD THE CASE LEAD BACK TO CANADA.

6. EMBASSY HAS HAD NO FURTHER ACTION IN THIS CASE. PLEASE ADVISE IF AN AFFIDAVIT FROM KELLER ATTESTING TO ACTIONS DESCRIBED ABOVE IS REQUIRED FOR INQUIRY.

7. FOR CARACAS: YOU MAY WISH TO INTERVIEW LEE LEON CONCERNING HIS RECOLLECTIONS OF BOHN CASE IF THIS HAS NOT YET BEEN DONE.
ENDERS

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Disposition Comment:
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SAS ID: 3365364
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: W/W MISSING AMERICAN CITIZENS
TAGS: CASC, (CARRION, MARCELO)
To: STATE
Type: TE
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